

# THE TECH

VOL. XXVI. No. 48

BOSTON, MASS., WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 1907

PRICE THREE CENTS

## CIVIC CLUB LETTER.

Written by Mr. T. C. Spelling for Intercollegiate League of Civic Clubs.

The second of the series of letters written by prominent men for the Intercollegiate League of Civic Clubs is an article by Mr. Thomas Carl Spelling. Mr. Spelling is the author of many works on social and economic subjects but is perhaps most widely known as the General Counsel to the American Federation of Labor of which Samuel Gompers is President.

This article was written exclusively for the club of the Intercollegiate Civic League and is copyrighted.

### True Nature and Misuse of Franchise Privileges.

The law books have never given the meaning of a franchise so clearly that every intelligent layman could understand it. It is the granting for a limited time or perpetually of a particle of sovereignty. To illustrate, it is the duty of government to make laws. Now the fixing of a freight rate is the making of a law. If however the legislature creates a board of railroad commissioners and confers upon it the authority to make rates, the exercise of that power by the board is the exercise of a delegated function of sovereignty. Again, it is the duty of government to protect the persons of citizens from assault and their property from theft and pillage. It does this ordinarily through a police force and other peace officers. But it allows any private citizen to arrest any one caught in the act of committing a felony. Here is another instance of the delegation of sovereignty. So when a child is born, or a corporation has been created, and the right to dig up the streets of a city or to lay pipes and wires therein, or to erect poles thereon and string wires on them, or to lay permanent tracks in, under, or over them is granted him or it, this is also the delegation of sovereign power. It is a farming out to one that which is a prerogative of all, collectively. No individual nor any number, can lawfully do any of these things without a surrender or abdication on the part of sovereignty, that is to say, a dispensation in his favor in derogation of common right. When such a surrender and dispensation is made in favor of a private corporation, it obtains what is called a franchise.

But the franchise, or permit, to do these things would not alone be of any value. Another function of government usually accompanies this franchise, namely, the right to profitably use the structure or improvement made under the franchise, after it is granted. This is equally a sovereign prerogative, because of its essentially monopolistic character. After one street railway company has laid its rails on, under or over a street, there is usually no room for another person or company desiring to engage in that business, no matter how easily he might obtain the government franchise. So, where one company has already laid its gas mains or electrical conduits in the streets, and its wires or pipes in all or most of the houses of a given territory,

*Continued on Page 4.*

## "RADIO-ACTIVITY."

First of Professor Cross's Series of Lectures Held on Monday.

Professor Cross gave the first of a series of lectures on "Radio Activity and the Conduction of Electricity through Gases" Monday afternoon. This course is given as an extension of the second year Physics lectures and is intended to cover in a way the enlargement of this subject in recent years.

It is through the phenomena of the conduction of electricity through gases that the scientific world is coming to learn more about the true nature of electricity. In answer to the question, "Is dry gas a perfect insulator?" experiments have shown that there is always some loss of charge. In a discharge through a gas the potential must be increased proportionally to the length of the spark up to two centimeters, but beyond that point there is a deviation from this rule. At a certain critical spark length the least potential is required to produce the spark, this length varying inversely as the pressure of the gas. Consequently sparks are more easily produced in vacuo. The luminosity of the discharge is due to the presence of volatilized metal and also to the ionization of the gas. Experiments were then performed to show these results and also to prove that the ions are electrified. The lecture closed with illustrations of the difference of discharge at the negative electrode from that at the positive. These lectures will be continued on Monday afternoons at four o'clock.

### TECH SHOW BEGINS TODAY.

James Francis, the coach of Tech Show, arrived in town yesterday, and was heartily greeted by a large number of old Show men. He will begin work today when the candidates for positions in the cast gather at the Union and hear the play outlined. It is important that every man who wishes to take part in the Show should be on hand today. The play will be outlined, the work of the characters described, and the candidates will apply for the positions which they wish to make.

### 1908 CLASS MEETING.

1908 is to start a new custom. On the first Saturday in March the class will hold a dinner at the Union with the class of '98, its ten year predecessor. The dinner came about as a suggestion from the '98 men, and at their class meeting held Monday in Huntington Hall the Juniors voted to hold the dinner. John Tobin, treasurer, showed in his report that most of the class dues had been paid and that the class finances were in good shape.

### RELAY EXHIBITION.

Next Thursday afternoon the Relay Team will give an exhibition race at the Gym as a part of their training for the race with Holy Cross. There will also be held a mile run, which is to be a strictly novice event, to get some new men for the distance events.

## TO MEET TUFTS TWICE.

Basketball and Fencing Teams Down for Matches with the Medford Collegians.

Tufts and Tech will get together twice this week. This evening the Basketball Team will meet Tufts at the Gym, and Thursday evening the fencers will go over to Medford for their second meet of the season.

Two games are to be played tonight at the Gym, the respective first teams and second teams meeting one another. The prospects for a double victory are bright in spite of the fact that Tufts will be well represented. Manager Whitmore believes that Tech will finish with the large end of the score. That the five is in good shape is shown by the fact that the fast Brown team was strained to the utmost to win from Tech last Saturday. Brown is scheduled to play at the Gym Saturday evening, but efforts are being made to cancel the game because of the B. A. A. Indoor Meet.

The Fencing Team ought to win a victory. Tufts is not exceptionally strong this year while Tech, as was shown by the meet last Saturday, has a strong team. Bounetheau, '08, and Loring, '08, with either Lange, '09, or Turner, '08, as the third man, will represent Tech.

### DINNER OF BOSTON CLUB OF 1905.

The Boston Club of 1905 held an informal dinner yesterday evening at the Technology Club, sixteen men being present. Charles R. Boggs presided. Afterwards a meeting was called and arrangements were made for the class dinner which will take place at the Hotel Bellevue on the evening of March first. G. M. Bartlett was elected president to succeed Andrew Fisher, Jr., who has left the city.

The club has now thirty members. Its object is to bring together all members of the Class of 1905 who live in or around Boston. Dinners are held the second Tuesday of every month at the Technology Club.

### TALK ON STEAM TURBINES.

At the meeting of the Mechanical Engineering Society last night at the Union, Charles Garrison, a former agent of the DeLaval Turbine Company, spoke on "Steam Turbines," giving an account of the various species of turbines and the different principles involved.

At the business meeting, a report was given by the committee in charge of the banquet held last term at the Copley Square Hotel. J. W. G. Handforth presided, G. G. Labbe, president of the society being absent.

### EXHIBITION OF SAFETY DEVICES.

The first international exposition of safety devices closed Monday at New York. The exhibits have been requested for an exhibition of industry, hygiene and sanitation to be held in April in Boston.

## CALENDAR.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13.  
1.15 P.M. Meeting of the Institute Committee in the Trophy Room.

4.00 P.M. Candidates for Tech Show meet at the Union.  
8.00 P.M. Basketball, Tech vs. Tufts and Tech 2nd vs. Tufts 2nd at the Gym.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14.  
1.30 P.M. Weekly V. M. C. A Meeting in Parish Hall.

4.00 P.M. Banjo Club Rehearsal in 33 Rogers.  
4.00 P.M. Meeting of the Architectural Society in 42 Pierce.

5.00 P.M. Exhibition Run of the Relay Team, and One Mile Novice Race, at the Gym.  
8.00 P.M. Fencing, Tech vs. Tufts, at Medford.

8.00 P.M. Society of Arts Meeting in 22 Walker.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15.

4.00 P.M. Mandolin Club Rehearsal in 31 Rogers.  
4.15 P.M. Glee Club Rehearsal at the Union.  
4.15 P.M. Mining Engineering Society in 2 Rogers.

## NOTICES.

Institute Committee.—Meeting today at 1.15 P.M. in Trophy room.

Mandolin Club.—There will be a special rehearsal of the Mandolin Club in 31 Rogers, Thursday at 4 P.M.

Frat. Men.—All fraternity men from colleges other than Tech will oblige *Technique* '08, by leaving their names, college, and fraternity at the Cage for McGuigan '08.

Jamestown Exposition.—All Tech students interested in securing summer work at the Jamestown Exposition may obtain particulars of C. S. Dean, VI, '07.

Musical Clubs.—The picture of the Musical Clubs will be taken at Purdy's studio Saturday, Feb. 16, at 1.30 P.M. All members be on hand with instruments. Dress suits with standing collars and white ties will be worn.

Secretaries.—The Secretaries of all Institute Societies, professional, school, or otherwise, are requested to furnish a complete list of their members for insertion in *Technique* '08. These lists may be left at the Cage for McGuigan '08.

For *Technique*.—Managers or Captains of all athletic teams will kindly leave at once a picture and a list of their respective teams at the Cage for the Athletic Editor of *Technique*. Schedules and scores of games played would be greatly appreciated.

Society of Arts.—The 632d meeting of the Society of Arts will be held in 22 Walker Thursday, at 8 P.M. Mr. F. L. Du Bosque, Marine Engineer with the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, will address the Society on "The Marine Interests of a Railroad." The lecture will be illustrated with lantern slides.

## READING NOTICE.

Lost.—A liberal reward awaits the return to the Cage of a watch lost in Eng. 2, Feb. 8.

## THE TECH

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In charge of this issue: A. K. MITCHELL, 1909

Wednesday, February 13, 1907.

THE TECH takes pleasure in announcing the election of Mr. B. Edwin Hutchinson, 1909, to the Editorial Board.

Since publishing an editorial in the issue of Feb. 6, regarding the '09 Field Day banner, THE TECH has received information that the banner is ready to be hung at the

Field Day Banners. ready to be hung at the

Union. In view of the fact that there has been considerable feeling concerning the character of the '08 banner, a word of explanation as to the reason for the character of both the '08 and '07 Field Day banners will not be out of place.

Through an oversight in 1903 the '05 banner was not ordered and it was not until 1904 that both the '05 and '06 banners were made. Upon their completion they were sent to the undergraduate who had charge of the Trophy Room in Rogers. The following spring the trophies were moved to the Union, and it was noticed that the '05 and '06 banners were missing. Therefore two other banners were made by a different firm than the one who had made the '03 and '04 trophies. In the spring of 1905 the student to whom the missing banners had been sent, graduated, and in cleaning up his room, discovered the banners behind a trunk in his closet.

The Advisory Council found itself with two banners, costing about \$15 apiece, on its hands. These banners could be used only for Field Day. It seemed to the Council therefore not only not at all improper but perfectly right that these should be made over for the years 1905 and 1906, which was accordingly done. In the '08 banner the letters were made in silver rather than in gold so that it might correspond with the banner of 1901.

### TECHNOLOGY CLUB EVENING.

The Technology Club will hold its seventh evening of the season, Tuesday, February 19, at eight o'clock, when Mr. Lyman C. Underwood will give a talk, illustrated by the stereopticon on "By-paths in Florida and Nassau."

Members are privileged to invite ladies to the talk and to dinner on that evening. The "common-room" being limited, admission for both members and guests must be by ticket. Members may receive tickets by sending to the Secretary applications, with stamped addressed envelopes, before February 15.

### "EAST SIDE" OF NEW YORK CITY.

Rev. John Hopkins Denison will have for his subject for the Thursday meeting of the Y. M. C. A., "Social and Moral Conditions on the 'East Side' of New York City."

Dr. Denison worked for several years on the East Side before coming to Boston and consequently can speak with authority as to conditions in the "slums" of New York City. As Tech men are naturally interested in practical religious work this subject will be of special interest to them.

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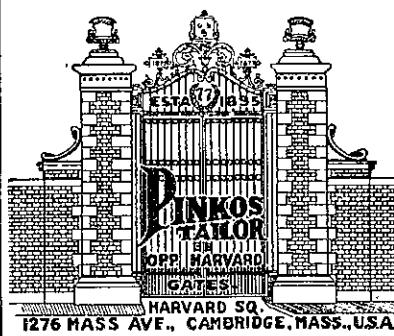
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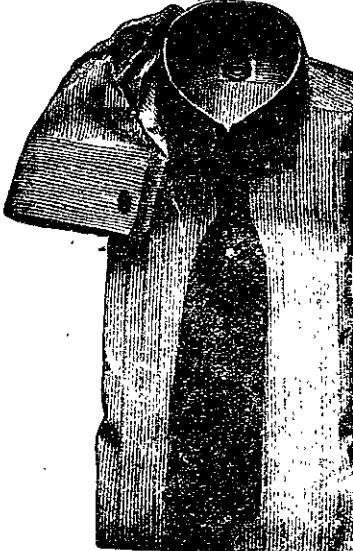
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MINING ENGINEERING SOCIETY.  
There will be a very important meeting of the Mining Engineering Society in Room 2, Rogers, on Friday afternoon, February 15, at 4.15. At this meeting there will be a continuation of the talks on Summer Work, which were so successful last term. J. H. Leavell, '07, will speak of the mining conditions at Bingham Canyon, Utah, and R. H. Wilson, '08, will speak on general mining experience.

Some very important business is to come before the society at this meeting. All second and third year men in the Mining Course are invited and members are especially urged to be present.

### CHESS CLUB MEETS BROWN.

The Chess Club will probably meet Brown University tomorrow, and matches are being arranged with Andover and Dartmouth. Dartmouth is coming to Boston in the latter part of March and wants a match with Tech. The Tech Team has lost one member through the withdrawal of Nelson from the Institute.

### COLONIAL THEATRE

Otis Skinner has already added another reason why he should be considered the foremost exponent of a serious drama on the American stage by his presentation of "The Duel" at the Colonial Theatre. This is the most striking work that the French stage has given to America in many years, and it shows the genius of Laverne. In its adaptation by Louis N. Parker it has gained an added charm, and all that remained was the genius of Otis Skinner. Just suited for the impersonation of the character of the young priest, he has scored the greatest hit in his artistic career.

### HOLLIS STREET THEATRE.

This is positively the last week of the engagement of William Faversham at the Hollis Street Theatre and therefore only a few more opportunities remain of seeing him in "The Squaw Man" which has

fully duplicated here the great triumph which it had in New York last season. It is by all odds one of the finest American plays that has been seen in Boston in a long time, and the superb acting of Mr. Faversham and the members of his company will make it a treat long to be remembered after the final performance is given here next Saturday night.

### PARK THEATRE.

Hattie Williams has the jolliest musical comedy success that has been seen in Boston in a long time and the Park Theatre should be the residence of "The Little Cherub" for a long time to come. The drollery and melody of the production made it the great hit of the autumn in New York, and it ran there for months. Now it has been brought to Boston, where a similar success is the result. Miss Williams is a clever Boston girl whose elevation to the position of star is richly deserved, and she has with her as strong a company of clever comedians and pretty girls as could possibly be brought together.

### KEITH'S THEATRE.

An attractive bill will be found at Keith's next week. Topping the list will be George Fuller Golden, the greatest single entertainer the American vaudeville stage has ever known. Julian Eltinge, of Cadet fame, will make his first appearance since his highly successful European trip. In "Car Two-Stateroom One" Miss Nita Allen and company have one of the best sketches Will M. Cressy has ever written. Others in the bill will be the Nichols sisters, Ralph Smalley, Francelias, the Sandow of today; Conu and Conrad, Mitchell and Cain, Latine, "The Physical Culture Girl"; the Sawadas, Japanese acrobats; the Trillers, who make pictures out of rags; Lillian LeRoy, balladist, and the Kinetograph. Commencing Monday, March 4, a notable innovation is to go into effect. All seats in the orchestra and balcony will be reserved and coupon tickets will be sold.

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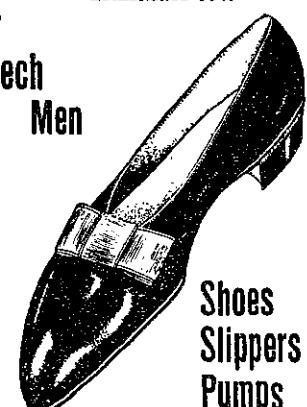
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**CIVIC CLUB LETTER.**

(Continued from Page 1.)

another company can seldom compete with it profitably. Having exercised all the privileges and improved all the opportunities which such a grant carries with it, the grantee holds, in addition to this particle of sovereignty, called a franchise, (1) a territorial or strategical position from which others are necessarily excluded for the purpose of furnishing, providing or selling a commodity of common necessity, and (2) the power to charge for the commodity, or service, "all the traffic will bear" to arbitrarily enforce payment. These, when carefully analyzed, are two additional elements of sovereignty, namely, the use and occupation of public property, and the power to tax.

The proposition is not new. In the earliest days of our history permits were given to construct turnpikes on public highways. The right thus given to collect tolls for vehicles and other travel over the pike was recognized as a prerogative right and the subject of license. The privilege now enjoyed by gas, electric lighting, telegraph, telephone, and street railway companies is the same in a different form. The latter are mere extensions and new applications of the old principle, and the best informed disinterested political economists of the present day so consider them. But those in places of power, those who control and use most of the organs of publicity read by the people, assume in ten thousand forms of language that the present use and enjoyment of these valuable privileges is the exercise of private right, and that the conventional theory is in keeping with true democratic principle.

The common sense and literally correct view of a franchise first above given has been entirely lost sight of in all recent discussions, and only the property value, the mere incident, has been made the subject of discussion and confounded with the principal thing, the franchise. It is true that when we see a private corporation realizing profits amounting to millions a year from the collection of fares we witness the results of financial favor to a small class in the community, but we seldom call to mind, the more important thing back of it, namely, that the corporation is also exercising governmental powers that should never have been farmed out at all, or if at all, only temporarily, pending preparation for their exercise by all the people in a collective capacity.

**Photographer for Tech '06****NOTMAN**

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CASTLE SQUARE.—"Little Em'ly."

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